MUSIC
SCHOLARSHIPS

SEVENOAKS SCHOOL

Music at Sevenoaks School is housed in The Space, our magnificent performing arts centre. This boasts a 400-seat concert hall, the Pamoja Hall, and in this we host an array of concerts from classical to jazz to rock. All students are encouraged to maximise their experience of music through the wide range of opportunities that the department nurtures inside the busy school framework.

Music Scholarships

Music scholarships are offered annually at each entry point: 11+ (Year 7), 13+ (Year 9) and 16+ (Lower Sixth).

Accurate assessment of a candidate's musical ability and potential at younger ages is difficult. Scholarships may be awarded, however it is likely that we may not be able to make awards to all candidates who are clearly promising, but on whom it is difficult to make a judgement at this time. Students who are unsuccessful at 11+ often make enormous progress in the Lower School, and the Director of Music may award a scholarship at a later point in a student's school career.



Selection Criteria

A satisfactory performance in the appropriate entrance examination is a condition of a Music scholarship.

What we are looking for, above all, is an enthusiasm for making music. For younger students, we are looking for potential as much as achievement and a genuine enthusiasm for music.

Holders of awards are expected to participate fully in the musical life of the school, involving themselves in choirs, orchestras and chamber ensembles according to their interests and expertise. They should be prepared to commit to attending the rehearsals and performances.

We expect a Sixth Form entrant to be around Grade 8 standard on their principal instrument, although they may not have taken an examination. In Year 9, approximately Grade 6 standard is required and at Year 7 approximately Grade 4 to 5, depending on the instrument the candidate is presenting.

All awards are reviewed annually and their continuance is dependent upon satisfactory conduct, attitude, participation and progress.

Assessment

The first stage of the scholarship process involves all applicants making a video recording of themselves performing one piece of music of their choice. Our preferred video formats are mp4, avi, mpg or wmv. Candidates should upload this recording to a portal of their choice, eg Vimeo. For security and safeguarding reasons, we ask you to password protect any video you upload to the platform.

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Then, email musicadmin@sevenoaksschool.org, providing these details:

- The candidate's full name
- The URL (web address) of your video
- Your chosen password

The video will only be seen by a small number of Sevenoaks School staff to help them assess your application. Content will not be shared with other organisations. You may wish to delete your content after you have been notified of the outcome by Sevenoaks School.

Selected candidates will then be invited for an audition and/or interview by the Director of Music. It is our strong preference that this further stage be completed in person, but arrangements can be made for online assessment if necessary.

All candidates invited to audition are required to play two contrasting pieces on their first instrument and one on their second instrument, if applicable. They are also encouraged to sing a short piece, unless voice is already one of their instruments. There is no written paper but a sight reading and an aural test appropriate to the candidate's grade will be required. The sight reading will take the form of a quick study. Candidates will be provided with a short piece of music on their first instrument which is approximately Grade 2/3 for Year 7 entry, Grade 4/5 for Year 9 entry, or Grade 6/7 for Lower Sixth entry. They will be given 15 minutes private study time in which to achieve a reasonable sense of fluency with the piece and to show some musical understanding.

Candidates auditioning remotely will be emailed the music a few minutes before the audition and asked to make an audio recording of the music, which they can email to the Music department immediately after the remote audition. As part of the audition there will be a conversation about the candidate's musical interests and ambitions.

Further information and application details

For Year 7, candidates should indicate their interest in a Music scholarship at the confirmation stage of the admissions process. Applications should be returned by mid November in the year prior to entry, and the assessments will be held in January.

The application form for 11+ can be found here:
https://www.sevenoaksschool.org/admissions/scholarships/music-scholarships/year-7-music-scholarship

For Year 9, all candidates who have accepted a place at the school will be invited to apply for a Music scholarship. Music scholarship applications should be submitted by 1 February of Year 8 and the scholarship assessment day will be held in April.

The application form for 13+ can be found here:
https://www.sevenoaksschool.org/admissions-repository/year-9-co-curricular-application

For Lower Sixth, candidates should express an interest in a Music scholarship at the confirmation stage of application. Selected candidates are invited for assessment in November.

The application form for 16+ can be found here:
https://www.sevenoaksschool.org/admissions-repository/sixth-form-co-curricular-scholarship-application

Please direct further enquiries to musicadmin@sevenoaksschool.org for the attention of the Director of Music, Mr Tom Harvey.

We understand that not all candidates are able to attend live auditions, particularly for Sixth Form entry. Please contact us to discuss a remote audition and what additional recordings may be necessary.